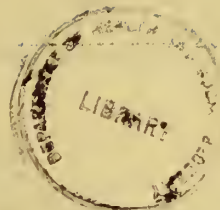


TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
AMPTHILL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the year 1973. The need to present it to the Council before the 1st April prevents the inclusion of certain useful and important features, such as Vital Statistics, the tabular statements of Causes of Death and the Chemical Analysis of the Water Supplies. There is, fortunately, no reason to think that the 1973 Vital Statistics will have ceased to compare favourably with those of England and Wales and it is virtually certain that the familiar pattern and characteristic groupings of the table of Causes of Death will not have changed. With regard to Chemical Analysis of Water Supplies the information set out in the 1972 Annual Report, which dealt with the year ended 31st March, 1973, is still relevant.

It is timely to mention once more the Health and Social Services provided by the County Council, and to say again that these, together with those of the District Councils, provide a broad base of operations for the prevention of illness and the maintenance and promotion of health. On the 1st April 1974 a new Area Health Authority will assume responsibility of all National Health Services in the whole of Bedfordshire. It is comforting to know that when this takes place the base will still exist and will, in fact, be broadened. There are statutory provisions to secure this and they will facilitate collaboration and co-operation, as will the appointment by District Councils of the District Community Physician as their "proper officer".

In conclusion, I express my deep gratitude to the members of the Council for the consideration they have always shown me. I wish also to thank the Chief Officers and staff for their ready co-operation and unfailing courtesy.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. V. BROTHWOOD

Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the Year 1973

Medical Officer of Health
W. C. V. BROTHWOOD, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

| | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|------------|
| Area (in acres) | .. | .. | .. | .. | 62,552 |
| Population: | | | | | |
| Census for 1971 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 33,659 |
| Registrar General's estimate of home population | | | | | |
| mid-year 1972 | | .. | .. | .. | 34,570 |
| Total number of houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11,680 |
| Rateable Value (1st April, 1973) | .. | .. | .. | .. | £1,406,091 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | .. | .. | .. | .. | £36,220 |

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Much is achieved in the prevention of infectious disease by immunisation. Diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis are dealt with in the first year of life and necessary re-inforcement doses are given at about five years of age. Immunisation against measles takes place in the second year of life. Consideration is being given to the feasibility of immunising at the age of five years those who missed vaccination earlier.

Vaccination against rubella is offered as a routine to girls reaching their twelfth year and there are arrangements, with prescribed safeguards, for the vaccination of women of child-bearing age.

B.C.G. vaccination is offered, where appropriate, to children at the age of thirteen years.

There are also certain activities of officers of the Public Health Department which are important in the prevention and control of infectious diseases. They are most readily recognisable in outbreaks of vomiting and diarrhoea and the rigid surveillance of persons returning from abroad who have been in contact with infectious diseases, especially typhoid and cholera.

The table below sets out the notifications of infectious diseases received. There is a continued absence of diphtheria and poliomyelitis and there was only one case of food poisoning. Each fact is a clear indication of the efficacy of the public health measures taken. Measles again showed its capricious nature. There were 115 cases, compared with 38 in 1972 and 502 in 1971. The notifications of meningitis resulted from a small outbreak of a virus disease, which fortunately rarely causes death.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

| Disease | 0-4 | 5-14 | 15+ | Age unknown | Total |
|-----------------------|-----|------|-----|-------------|-------|
| Measles .. | 38 | 72 | 3 | 2 | 115 |
| Scarlet Fever .. | 1 | 10 | 1 | - | 12 |
| Meningitis .. | - | 3 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| Whooping Cough .. | 1 | 2 | - | - | 3 |
| Food Poisoning .. | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Infective jaundice .. | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |

Tuberculosis - There were two cases of pulmonary and one of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified.

A mobile X-Ray unit, provided by the Mass Radiography Service of the Regional Hospital Board, continues to visit The Sands, Woburn Street, Ampthill, on Thursday each week from 12.00 to 12.15 p.m. During this period patients sent by general practitioners can be x-rayed.

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS

Cases requiring attention are usually school children with head lice infestations and these are dealt with by the Health Visitors as a matter of routine.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 - Section 47

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act provides for the removal to hospital or Part III accommodation on a Court Order, of sick or old people who are unable to look after themselves. It was not found necessary to use this legislation for the compulsory removal of any person during the year.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
AMPTHILL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman,

I have the honour to present my fourth and last Annual Report on the work of the Health and Housing Department for the year 1973.

With regard to the establishment it should be noted that this is the first year since 1969 that the staff has remained unchanged and this is shown in the amount of work carried out by the Department. Once again the number of visits and inspections has increased, this time substantially, mainly due to a doubling of visits on public health aspects, plus increased inspections of food premises and on civic amenities. There was also a considerable increase in the number of animals slaughtered, the highest total since 1964.

With regard to housing generally a lot remains to be done but I have commented in the text on the fact that with demand for Council accommodation still increasing, the completions of Council Houses, etc., has again declined, a far from satisfactory state of affairs. This affects not only the waiting lists but the amount of slum clearance which can be undertaken.

I have to report with regret on an aspect of work which has caused great concern to all and that is refuse collection. The service which has been given to the rate-payers of this district during the last year has deteriorated, after many years of improvement. This has been brought about solely by shortage of labour, a consequence of low wage rates and the Government's Counter Inflationary Policy. Sincere efforts to improve the situation have been made by officers and members alike, but all to no avail.

The reorganisation of local government due to take place on 1st April, 1974, caused an appreciable increase in the work load particularly for my Deputy and myself, but this is difficult to show in a report such as this. The officers of the five amalgamating authorities met regularly covering both the public health and housing management fields and reports were prepared for consideration by various Committees.

I would like before concluding to look back over the last nineteen years which I have served this Council. Many changes have taken place, the population and the number of houses has approximately doubled. Whereas in 1955 out of 29 Parishes only 6 had main sewerage, there are now only 6 without, three of these with a scheme under construction and the remaining three too small for viable schemes. The number of properties without mains water is now very low, and pail closets are disappearing steadily. In 1955 the scavenging services provided for collection of tins, bottles, etc., on a two or three weekly cycle and until this year improvements brought about a regular weekly collection of all household refuse and other larger items of rubbish.

On housing the Council have doubled the number of Council Houses and included in these have been provision of bungalows and Warden scheme accommodation, and have also been active in securing the clearance of over 600 slum houses, plus the improvement of a substantial number of others.

There has been a considerable amount of legislation issued over these years dealing with housing, noise, smoke control, workplaces, food and caravans which has greatly added to the work load. It can therefore be said with certainty that from a basic environmental standpoint the conditions in this district have improved immeasurably over this period. I can only hope that this improvement continues over the next 20 years to make life better for all.

In conclusion I am grateful to those members of the Council who over the years have taken such a keen interest in the work of the Department and to all members for the consideration they have shown me.

I should like to express my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health and all my Departmental colleagues for their able support during the year.

It may be of some interest that there has been 4 Medical Officers and 25 individual members of staff in the Department during the 19 years I have served this Authority.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

L. DANIEL.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for 1973

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT

Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager:

L. DANIEL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

N. L. GOOD, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

D. J. VOSPER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant:

E. SMITH Main duties concerned with housing surveys and duties under Civic Amenities Act.

Administrative Assistants:

N. FLINN Main duties concerned with the Cleansing Services.

MRS. I. M. ELLISON .. Majority of duties concerned with Housing Management, plus assistance on public health aspects.

Junior Clerk:

MISS S. BATTAMS .. Duties cover all three aspects of departmental work.

Cleansing Foreman:

E. HUDSON

Rodent Operative:

J. ROBERTS

THE DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATION:-

Public Health Environmental duties.

Cleansing Services.

Housing Management (allocations and lettings).

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA

(a) Number of Inspections made:

Public Health Act:-

| | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Complaints | .. | .. | .. | .. | 183 |
| Where nuisances were found | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| Drainage | .. | .. | .. | .. | 151 |
| Cesspools | .. | .. | .. | .. | 13 |
| Cleansing | .. | .. | .. | .. | 595 |
| Infectious Diseases, etc. (incl. Food Poisoning) | .. | .. | .. | .. | 34 |
| Pig Sties | .. | .. | .. | .. | 37 |
| Places of Entertainment | .. | .. | .. | .. | 17 |
| Water Samples and Supply | .. | .. | .. | .. | 75 |
| Infestations | .. | .. | .. | .. | 37 |
| Specimens | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7 |
| Swimming Pools | .. | .. | .. | .. | 29 |
| Noise and Smoke Control | .. | .. | .. | .. | 48 |

Housing Acts:-

| | | | | |
|------------------------|----|----|----|------|
| House to House Surveys | .. | .. | .. | 1429 |
| House Inspections .. | .. | .. | .. | 898 |
| Revisits .. | .. | .. | .. | 81 |
| Complaints .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 |
| Housing Applications | .. | .. | .. | 72 |
| Grants .. | .. | .. | .. | 323 |

Food and Drugs Act:-

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| Slaughterhouses | .. | .. | .. | 19 |
| Butchers .. | .. | .. | .. | 33 |
| Cafes .. | .. | .. | .. | 80 |
| Bakohouses | .. | .. | .. | 9 |
| Licensed Premises .. | .. | .. | .. | 114 |
| Ice Cream Premises | .. | .. | .. | 144 |
| Canteens .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 |
| Grocers .. | .. | .. | .. | 111 |
| Confectioners | .. | .. | .. | 18 |
| Greengrocers | .. | .. | .. | 11 |
| Fried Fish Shops .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| Mobile Shops | .. | .. | .. | 91 |
| Poultry Processing Establishments | .. | .. | .. | 5 |
| Inspection of Other Foods | .. | .. | .. | 21 |
| Meat Inspection .. | .. | .. | .. | 501 |

Factories Act:-

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|
| Inspections | .. | .. | .. | 10 |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949:-

| | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|
| Rodent Control | .. | .. | .. | 13 |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|

Animal Boarding Establishments Act:-

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|---|
| Inspections | .. | .. | .. | 9 |
|-------------|----|----|----|---|

Civic Amenities Act:-

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|-----|
| Inspections | .. | .. | .. | 527 |
|-------------|----|----|----|-----|

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| Miscellaneous Visits .. | .. | .. | .. | 424 |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|-----|

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| Visits to Council Houses | .. | .. | .. | 198 |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|-----|

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963:-

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|-----|
| Inspections | .. | .. | .. | 157 |
|-------------|----|----|----|-----|

Caravan Sites Act, 1960:-

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|-----|
| Inspections | .. | .. | .. | 179 |
|-------------|----|----|----|-----|

6,728

(b) Water Supply

Only 44 houses, out of the 97 supplied by standpipes, are occupied. These are mainly sub-standard cottages and will be dealt with under the Housing Acts. Only 9 of the 21 houses on well supply are occupied and are in isolated parts of the District.

(c) Sanitary Accommodation and Drainage

Only 293 of the 424 houses with pail closets are occupied, the majority being in areas where the sewer is not yet available. 383 houses still have no satisfactory means of drainage, but this figure will be reduced by schemes now in hand.

(d) Sewerage

There are now 6 parishes at present without main sewerage. Higham Gobion, Battosdon and Potsgrove are too small and isolated to be viable.

The scheme for Salford is still under construction, due to financial difficulties and delay. The joint scheme for Eversholt and Steppingley is proceeding well. Several small schemes have been prepared for isolated parts of the district.

WATER SUPPLY, SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AND DRAINAGE

Particulars of Number of Dwelling Houses and Population with above facilities

| Parish | Census Popula- tion 1971 | Number of Houses | Supplied by Mains Direct | Supplied by Stand- pipe | Supplied by Well | Sanitary Accom. | | Type of Drainage to:- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------|-----------------------|-------|------|-------|
| | | | | | | W.C. | Pail | Cesspool | Ditch | None | Sewer |
| Aspley Guise .. | 2037 | 766 | 765 | 1 | - | 759 | 7 | 19 | 8 | - | 739 |
| Aspley Heath .. | 580 | 185 | 185 | - | - | 184 | 1 | 7 | - | 1 | 177 |
| Battledosn .. | 43 | 17 | 15 | - | 2 | 14 | 3 | 14 | 2 | 1 | - |
| Clophill .. | 1538 | 542 | 531 | 9 | 2 | 515 | 27 | 33 | 26 | 1 | 482 |
| Cranfield .. | 4032 | 1218 | 1214 | 3 | 1 | 1190 | 28 | 60 | 27 | - | 1131 |
| Eversholt .. | 425 | 160 | 157 | 3 | - | 121 | 39 | 114 | 22 | 12 | 12 |
| Flitton .. | 711 | 312 | 308 | 4 | - | 287 | 25 | 20 | 22 | 3 | 267 |
| Flitwick .. | 5192 | 1779 | 1776 | 3 | - | 1776 | 3 | 27 | - | 2 | 1750 |
| Gravenhurst .. | 534 | 199 | 198 | - | 1 | 195 | 4 | 35 | 2 | 1 | 161 |
| Harlington .. | 2025 | 680 | 677 | 2 | 1 | 675 | 5 | 22 | 5 | - | 653 |
| Haynes .. | 937 | 356 | 355 | - | 1 | 340 | 8 | 86 | 7 | 1 | 262 |
| Higham Gobion .. | 22 | 8 | 8 | - | - | 7 | 1 | 7 | 1 | - | - |
| Holcut and Salford .. | 179 | 70 | 68 | 2 | - | 51 | 19 | 53 | 11 | 6 | - |
| Houghton Conquest .. | 1156 | 414 | 406 | 8 | - | 402 | 12 | 32 | 6 | 5 | 371 |
| Husborne Crawley .. | 373 | 134 | 133 | - | 1 | 132 | 2 | 37 | 2 | - | 95 |
| Lidlington .. | 1094 | 376 | 372 | 3 | 1 | 373 | 3 | 27 | 3 | 1 | 345 |
| Marston Mortaine .. | 2235 | 783 | 774 | 7 | 2 | 749 | 34 | 58 | 28 | 3 | 694 |
| Maulden .. | 1955 | 708 | 699 | 8 | 1 | 690 | 18 | 53 | 13 | 3 | 639 |
| Millbrook .. | 139 | 50 | 48 | 1 | 1 | 40 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 1 | 27 |
| Milton Bryan .. | 137 | 55 | 53 | 1 | 1 | 36 | 19 | 18 | 18 | 1 | 18 |
| Potsgrove .. | 62 | 21 | 18 | 3 | - | 15 | 6 | 15 | 6 | - | - |
| Pulloxhill .. | 844 | 305 | 302 | 1 | 2 | 297 | 8 | 22 | 8 | - | 275 |
| Ridgmont .. | 671 | 262 | 261 | 1 | - | 255 | 7 | 21 | 4 | - | 237 |
| Shillingington including Lower Stondon .. | 3172 | 1057 | 1039 | 15 | 3 | 976 | 81 | 107 | 66 | 2 | 882 |
| Silsoe .. | 1271 | 394 | 387 | 7 | - | 382 | 12 | 22 | 9 | - | 363 |
| Steppingley .. | 214 | 70 | 65 | 5 | - | 47 | 25 | 48 | 18 | 4 | - |
| Tingrith .. | 166 | 59 | 59 | - | - | 57 | 2 | 15 | - | - | 44 |
| Westoning .. | 1122 | 371 | 367 | 4 | - | 368 | 3 | 25 | 1 | - | 345 |
| Woburn .. | 793 | 329 | 322 | 6 | 1 | 315 | 14 | 38 | 9 | 1 | 281 |
| TOTALS .. | 33659 | 11680 | 11562 | 97 | 21 | 11256 | 424 | 1047 | 534 | 49 | 10250 |

(c) Rodent Control

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

TYPE OF PROPERTY

| PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS | TYPE OF PROPERTY | |
|---|----------------------|--------------|
| | NON- AGRICULTURAL | AGRICULTURAL |
| 1. Number of properties in district | 13,210 | 352 |
| 2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notifi- cation | 255 | - |
| (b) Number infested by (i) Rats | 183 | - |
| (ii) Mice | 42 | - |
| 3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification | 87 | 40 |
| (b) Number infested by (i) Rats | 36 | 6 |
| (ii) Mice | 1 | 8 |

In providing this service the total inspections and revisits carried out and treatments given are as follows:-

1056 Domestic Properties; 195 Council Properties (excluding Council houses); 263 Sewer Ditches and 40 Surveys of Agricultural Properties.
Total: 1554 visits.

The Council's sewers, sewage disposal plants, sewer ditches, and refuse tips are systematically treated.

The Council gives a free service and occupiers in the main make good use of this facility. The need for reporting the slightest infestation of these disease carrying vermin cannot be overstressed.

(f) Swimming Pools

- (i) There are no Public Pools owned by this Authority.
- (ii) There are two privately owned pools open to the public at Eversholt and Woburn. These open air pools are provided with efficient chlorinating plants.
- (iii) Private Swimming Pools

HAWNES SCHOOL, HAYNES PARK: A covered pool is provided for this girls' boarding school. Mains water has been piped to the pool during 1973 and together with the existing efficient purification plant provides improved facilities.

THE KNOLL SCHOOL, ASPLEY HEATH: A similar boarding school for boys. There is a small pool filled from the main water supply. It is periodically emptied and refilled and chlorinated.

Regular visits were paid to each of the above pools during the season and checks made on the efficiency of chlorination, etc., samples being taken for bacteriological examination as considered necessary.

(g) Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960

There are 11 licensed sites within the District dispersed as follows:-

| | SITES | NO. OF CARAVANS |
|---------------|-------|-----------------|
| Clophill | 1 | 1 |
| Cranfield | 2 | 15 |
| | | 15 |
| Marston | 1 | 15 |
| Maulden | 1 | 51 |
| Lower Stondon | 6 | 160 |
| | | 30 |
| | | 5 |
| | | 3 |
| | | 7 |
| | | 1 |

(h) Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

There were seven premises registered under this Act at the commencement of the year. During the year one premise ceased to operate, a further new one was registered, and another premise was enlarged.

Annual inspections are made with the veterinary surgeon appointed by the Council, and further visits made where necessary.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Slaughterhouses

There are 4 licensed slaughterhouses in the District and 16 slaughtermen were licensed under the Slaughter of Animals Act 1958 during the year.

(b) Meat Inspection

Total number of Animals Slaughtered and Inspected - 3,940.

Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:-

| | Cattle | Cows | Calves | Sheep | Pigs |
|---|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| Number killed | 676 | 27 | 43 | 1810 | 1384 |
| Number inspected | 676 | 27 | 43 | 1810 | 1384 |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci: | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 110 | 11 | 9 | 65 | 173 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci | 16.27% | 40.75% | 20.93% | 3.59% | 12.50% |
| Tuberculosis only: | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organs was condemned | - | - | - | - | 16 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis | - | - | - | - | 1.16% |
| Cysticercosis only | - | - | - | - | - |

1 ton 8 cwts. 86 lbs. carcase meat and 17 cwts. 75 lbs. offal were surrendered, being unsound for human consumption.

The carcase meat included 6 whole sheep (pleurisy, peritonitis, emaciation), 1 cow (emaciation), 2 calves (arthritis and severe bruising), and 5 cattle. Two of these cattle had been severely injured in road accidents having escaped from a field, and a third was unfit for human consumption as it had received antibiotic treatment prior to slaughter. The other 2 were suffering from pyaemia.

Much of the offal consisted of livers from beasts, pigs, and sheep found to contain parasites, cysts, abscesses, etc., together with a number of pairs of lungs (pleurisy, pneumonia, etc.).

All unfit meat is stained before removal from the slaughterhouse for processing as animal feed, or is buried under supervision.

OTHER UNFIT FOODS surrendered by Shopkeepers, etc., are removed, and buried in the Council's refuse tip under supervision. During the year 30 lbs. 14 oz. canned foods 189 lbs. 4 oz. butchers meat and 3890 boxes and packets of frozen foods were dealt with in this manner. The frozen foods were all surrendered following refrigerator failures, 9 of which were reported during the year.

(e) Registered Food Premises

Section 16, Food and Drugs Act 1955:-

Number of Shops registered for the sale of Ice Cream 89

Number of Licensed Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream .. 26

Number of Premises registered for the manufacture of Preserved Meats 12

With reference to the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1959 and 1963, there are no manufacturing premises within the district. There is a depot within the Rural District from which vehicles operate throughout the area selling soft ice cream.

(d) Sampling

Number of Ice Cream samples taken: 16

The results of all 16 samples fell within Grade 1, which is taken to be satisfactory.

(e) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970

Number and type of food premises:-

| Category of Trade: | No. | Fitted to comply with Reg. 18 | No. to which Reg. 21 applies | Fitted to comply with Reg. 21 |
|---------------------|-----|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bakehouses | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Butchers | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Cafes & Restaurants | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Fried Fish Shops | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Grocers | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 |
| Confectioners | 19 | 10 | 14 | 14 |
| Greengrocers | 7 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Licensed Premises | 84 | 83 | 84 | 84 |
| Ice Cream Merchants | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Clubs | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Canteens | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |

The Department has made over 640 visits to the 200 food premises within the District, and a number of verbal warnings were given to occupiers and foodhandlers. Of the 25 informal notices served during the year, 3 have already been fully complied with, and works are in hand to rectify most of the contraventions itemised in the remainder. Six out of thirteen similar notices served last year have also been fully complied with.

During the year, a total of 78 contraventions in food premises were recorded. Inspections also showed that 70 similar contraventions discovered last year, had, following our action, been remedied.

In general, the overall standards of food hygiene and cleanliness appear to be improving as occupiers and food handlers are made increasingly aware of the importance of higher standards within their premises, although it was apparent, during the course of our visits, that there are a number of traders who still await our inspections and subsequent warnings, before carrying out works of re-decoration and minor repairs. Such items accounted for a large percentage of the contraventions discovered.

(f) Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966

A total of 90 inspections have been carried out on mobile traders operating within the area, and warnings issued where necessary.

It is very difficult to trace and check on mobile food traders, and until the law is changed to allow for registration or licensing of vehicles under the Food & Drugs Act it is my opinion that adequate control will not be possible.

(g) Poultry Processing Establishments

1. Number of poultry processing premises within the district .. 1
2. Number of visits to these premises .. 5
3. Total number of birds processed during the year ... 5,912,419
4. Types of birds processed Mainly broilers plus capons
5. Number of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption 105,275
6. Total weight of poultry rejected as unfit for human consumption 400,045 lbs.

Most of the factory is devoted to the production of "New York Dressed" birds, but about one fifth of the poultry (1,152,768 birds in 1973) is eviscerated. The EEC Directive on trade in fresh poultry meat requires that by 1976, all poultry shall be eviscerated. I therefore expect production of "New York Dressed" birds to have ceased by that date.

HOUSING

(a) Housing Management

The Department is responsible for the allocation and letting of Council houses, bungalows, flats and garages, and compilation of the waiting list. The selection of tenants is carried out by the Council's Housing Committee.

36 new properties were let during the year.
60 changes of tenancies took place.
65 transfers were effected.
8 exchanges were permitted.

It should be noted that the number of new properties available for letting has been declining over the last 4 years, and this at a time when the demand for housing has been increasing. This is obviously not a very satisfactory state of affairs.

The number of applicants on the Council waiting list before revision in May was 890, and after the annual revision the figure was reduced to 780. However, by December it had risen again to approximately 879. It will be seen therefore that in the 12 months from December to December the overall demand had increased by approximately 130 from both young and elderly.

(b) Slum Clearance

Further progress was made during the year in dealing with unfit houses on stage one of the current Slum Clearance Programme designed to clear all unfit properties by 1980.

A further 34 properties were dealt with, bringing the total so far to 49 as set out below:-

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----------|
| Undertakings to Close accepted | .. | .. | 9 |
| Undertaking to Repair | .. | .. | 1 |
| Demolition Orders | .. | .. | 2 |
| Closing Orders | .. | .. | 3 |
| Properties made Fit | .. | .. | 17 |
| Properties voluntarily demolished | .. | .. | 17 |
| | | | <hr/> 49 |

It will be necessary to keep up steady progress if the target set is to be achieved by 1980.

Furthermore an allocation of new houses will be required in order to rehouse tenants from Slum properties and thus achieve clearance.

(c) Housing Survey

Work on this important survey was again continued during the year, one more village being completed, making the total of 12 parishes.

Revisits are continually being made in the parishes already inspected to keep information up to date.

(d) Repairs

The following is a summary of nuisances and defects upon which action has been taken during the year:-

| | | | |
|---|----|----|---|
| Number of defective premises | .. | .. | 9 |
| Premises with defective roof and gutters | .. | .. | 5 |
| Premises with defective external walls | .. | .. | 1 |
| Premises with defective timber work | .. | .. | 3 |
| Premises with defective windows and doors | .. | .. | 6 |
| Premises with defective plasterwork | .. | .. | 2 |
| Premises with defective drainage | .. | .. | 3 |

Repairs and improvements have been carried out to a number of other houses without recourse to serving notices. This work has been done after informal consultations with the owners. There were 9 informal notices served under the Public Health Act 1936, and 6 such notices were complied with - including 3 outstanding from the previous year.

(e) Improvements

Every Standard and Improvement Grant application is checked by the Department. A detailed inspection of the property concerned is made to ensure that all necessary repairs and improvements will be carried out and that the property satisfies the requirements for Grant.

A certificate to this effect is then issued to the Engineer & Surveyor.

The Public Health Inspector revisits the property on completion of the works to ensure that the necessary repairs have been carried out satisfactorily before payment of the Grant is authorised.

A total of 320 visits was made during the year (primary inspections, revisits and final inspections). Applications in respect of 107 properties were dealt with during the year; 61 for Standard Grants and 46 for Improvement Grants.

(f) Qualification Certificates

There have not been many applications from landlords under the 1969 Housing Act for Qualification Certificates (which enable controlled tenancies to be converted to regulated tenancies) or for Certificates of Provisional Approval (which certify that a Qualification Certificate will be issued on completion of the works specified in the application).

Details of applications dealt with during the year are as follows:-

| | |
|--|---|
| Number of applications for Qualification Certificates received | 9 |
| Number approved | 4 |
| Number awaiting decision at end of year | 5 |
| Number refused | 0 |
| Number of applications for Certificates of Provisional Approval received | 4 |
| Number granted | 4 |

CLEANSING

(a) Pail Collection and Cesspool Emptying Service

Closet pails are emptied once a week in the areas where the sewer is not available. Where the sewer is available, the service is given to condemned properties which are still occupied and to 'hardship' cases such as old age pensioners.

Of the 424 houses with pail closets, 131 are unoccupied. 170 houses having pail closets are receiving the emptying service and this leaves some 123 properties where the occupiers have to make their own arrangements for disposal.

There are 1,047 houses with cesspool drainage, the actual number of cesspools being slightly less than this. There is in operation a cesspool emptying rota scheme based on past emptying frequency and need, i.e., monthly, quarterly and yearly emptyings as required. Requests can still be made if necessary up to a maximum of thirteen emptyings per annum. The service to domestic properties is free of charge. This service is carried out with two 1,500 gallon emptying vehicles. There is an incentive bonus scheme in operation.

Facilities are provided at one main sewage disposal works for the reception and treatment of cesspool waste and this is augmented by disposal on agricultural land as available.

(b) Refuse Collection and Disposal

There has been for some years a regular weekly refuse collection service operating throughout the district. This year unfortunately has seen a deterioration in this service due solely to shortage of labour, brought about by heavy labour demand in this area, low wage rates and the Government's Counter Inflationary Policy. A lot of time and effort has been put in to try and improve the situation, but unfortunately without success.

Collections are carried out with 5 continuous loading vehicles, plus one spare vehicle, each vehicle normally having a crew of five.

There is an incentive bonus scheme in operation on this service. Household and other bulky items of excess refuse are collected free on request from occupiers at the end of the working week.

The disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping on one main site. This site has a garage, rest room and sanitary accommodation and provides adequate facilities for the employees and housing for the Crawler Dozer.

The tip is open for use by residents of the district for disposal of non-domestic refuse and also for other rubbish. A charge of 50p per load is levied for the disposal of industrial waste, etc., from within the district. Soil and other covering material is accepted free of charge. A skip is provided at the entrance to the tip for use when the tip is closed.

(c) Civic Amenities Act 1967

(a) Disposal of Abandoned Vehicles (Sec. 20, 21)

| Total Abandoned | Reclaimed by Owners | Sold | Destroyed | Awaiting Action | Detained in Pound (during year) |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 84 | 36 | 2 | 57 | 5 | 20 |

Unwanted vehicles removed by request:- 29

Unwanted vehicles awaiting removal:- Nil

(b) Total number removed since June, 1968

| 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | Total |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 42 | 72 | 52 | 57 | 51 | 84 | 358 |

(c) Other Refuse (Sec. 23)

Two tips are provided within the district for the acceptance of refuse, etc., under this Act. Deposits can be made during working hours and on Saturday mornings, the main tip at Brogborough being specially opened for this purpose.

FACTORIES

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS or purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

| | Number on Register (2) | Number of Inspections (3) |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 3 | - |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 85 | 9 |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority *(excluding out-workers' premises) | 38 | - |
| TOTAL .. | 126 | 9 |

* i.e., Electrical Stations (Section 123 (1), Institutions (Section 124) sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Section 127), Slaughter-houses (Section 175 (1) (d) and (e) and Railway Running Sheds (Section 175 (2) and (10))

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK

| Nature of Work (1) | Section 133 |
|--|--|
| | No. of outworkers in August list required By Sect. 113 (1) (e) (2) |
| Wearing apparel - Making etc. | 46 |
| Cosaques, Christmas stockings, etc. | 24 |
| The making of Brushes | 1 |

OFFICES, SHOPS, AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

- (a) Total Number of Registered Premises at end of year: 133
- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 33 Offices | 22 Catering Establishments |
| 74 Retail Shops | 2 Fuel Storage Depots |
| 2 Wholesale Shops | |
- (b) Number of Newly Registered Premises during the Year: 16
- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| 5 Offices | 5 Retail Shops |
| 6 Catering Establishments | |
- (c) Total Number of Persons Employed in the above Premises: 1615
- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 924 Males | 691 Females |
|-----------|-------------|
- (d) Number of Persons Employed in Class of Workplace:
- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Offices 1031 | Catering Establishments 240 |
| Retail Shops 319 | Fuel Storage Depots 9 |
| Wholesale Shops 16 | |

157 visits were made to premises during the year.